

CLASSIFICATION

SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT

TOPIC Soviet Troops in Stendal

50X1-HUM

EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 21 March 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 19 February 1952, the Taunentzien Kaserne on Osterburgerstrasse, Stendal (M 53/Y 85), quartered about 800 troops who wore black-bordered red epaulets. About 20 groups of 10 to 12 soldiers practiced with small arms in the yard. About 15 trucks were parked in front of the garages. On 23 February, about 10 groups of 10 to 12 soldiers were engaged in close-order drill in the yard. In the northern corner of the yard there were four 82-mm mortars which were emplaced by 5-man crews of soldiers with black-bordered red epaulets. Three platoons, each of 32 to 34 men wearing black-bordered red epaulets and equipped with three light machine guns, were seen marching from the installation toward the training field north of Appel Allee. The troops were led by six officers who wore black-bordered red epaulets. About half an hour later left the installation in the same direction, each carrying 12 soldiers wearing black-bordered red epaulets and towing four 45-mm AT guns. Those troops were subsequently seen engaged in field training at platoon level and gun drill on the training field. Driving was practiced with trucks each carrying four students.

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2. Prior to 25 February, the Hindenburg Kaserne on Schillerstrasse was occupied by about 2,200 troops who wore black-bordered red epaulets without branch-of-service insignia, red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia, and black-bordered black epaulets with signal insignia. From 30 to 35 groups of about 10 soldiers each were seen at drill on 20 February. Crews of 1 officer and 6 men each practiced with two 57-mm AT guns in the Buergerpark. Two portable-radio sections were seen in the northern section of the Buergerpark, with two men wearing red-bordered black epaulets with signal insignia operating each set. The sets were placed about 400 meters apart. At about 6 p.m. on 21 February, jeep and seven trucks, each carrying 16 to 18 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and towing four 76.2-mm field guns, were seen en route to the Hindenburg Kaserne. About 20 groups of 12 to 14 men each practiced with small arms in the barracks yard on 25 February.

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From 25 to 30 trucks were parked in front of the garages in the southern section. Nine platoons, each of 30 to 34 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia, were equipped with small arms, but without machine guns, marched from the installation toward Uenglingen at about 11:30 a.m. The rear of the unit was brought up by 16 officers, including 1 lieutenant colonel who wore artillery insignia. From 500 to 600 troops received field training at group and platoon level on the training grounds west of the barracks installation. At the southern perimeter of the training field, there were four crews of 1 officer and 8 men wearing red-bordered black epaulets who were engaged in aiming and loading practice with four 122-mm field howitzers using practice shells. 50X1-HUM

3. On 26 February, source learned from a resident near the Albrecht-der-Baer Kaserne on Friedrich-Wert-Strasse that no tanks had been seen leaving the installation during the last two weeks. 50X1-HUM

700 to 800 troops were quartered in the installation and that components of the unit were stationed south of Staats. At about 9 a.m., six platoons, of 28 to 30 soldiers each, were seen marching from the installation toward the training field west of Hindenburg Kaserne. The troops wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia, and were equipped with small arms. The rear was brought up by eight officers who wore tank insignia.

4. On 23 February, four caterpillar tractors, each carrying 10 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets and towing a 100-mm AT gun were seen en route to Borstel airfield.

A crew of 1 officer and 8 men practiced firing with a 100-mm AT gun at a silhouette at the target range north of the ammunition dump. The target was placed a distance of 50 meters from the gun and, according to the report, subcaliber tubes were used. Caterpillar tractor was parked nearby. Trucks loaded with ammunition, drove to the ammunition dump from the direction of Stendal. 50X1-HUM

Comment. The report confirms previous assumptions on the occupation of military installations in Stendal. 50X1-HUM  
The tank troops who reoccupied the Albrecht-der-Baer Kaserne at the end of December 1951 may have been the 16th (?) Gds Tank SP Regt of the 207th Hqs Rifle Div which moved into the installation and, possibly for billeting or training reasons, is stationed with some of its components near Staats.

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